

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2013 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery News Release 13
Districts 4 and 5 to Open to Commercial Salmon Fishing**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at Bethel for commercial salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area.

District 4, Quinhagak

District 4, Quinhagak, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7, 2013.

Preliminary harvest from the August 5 opening, indicate a harvest of 8 king; 109 sockeye; 421 chum; and 1,993 coho salmon. Harvests and catch rates for coho salmon were below average for this date.

As of August 5, total passage through the Kanektok River Weir is 3,478 king; 127,340 sockeye; 42,288 chum; and 798 coho salmon. The king salmon aerial survey goal (3,500–8,000) was not met with a count of 2,340 king salmon. The sockeye salmon aerial survey goal (14,000–34,000) was exceeded with a count of 64,790 sockeye salmon.

In District 4 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period.

District 5, Goodnews Bay

District 5, Goodnews Bay, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7, 2013.

Preliminary harvest during the August 5 commercial period was 3 king; 209 sockeye; 94 chum; and 794 coho salmon. The harvest and catch rates for coho salmon was about average for this date.

As of August 4, total passage through the Middle Fork Goodnews River Weir is 1,092 king; 22,669 sockeye; 26,776 chum; and 42 coho salmon. The king salmon escapement goal has not been achieved. The sockeye and chum salmon escapement goals have been achieved.

In District 5 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period.

The local processor anticipates adequate processing capacity for these upcoming commercial periods. Fishermen should maintain contact with the buyer to ensure there is adequate processing capacity for their catch.

Fishermen are reminded that they may retain any portion of their catch for personal or subsistence use. Fish retained for personal or subsistence use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket. Fishermen are also reminded that gillnet gear may not be operated in a manner that obstructs more than one half the width of any waterway. In the intertidal zone this restriction applies at all tide stages. Additionally, gear is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and 50 fathoms in length in a single shackle.

The Department will be closely monitoring commercial fishing periods to assess fishery performance and anticipates announcing additional commercial fishing periods as warranted. Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the state web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

Commercial fishermen are encouraged to consult Fish and Game regulations prior to beginning commercial fishing operations.

For additional information or questions regarding Districts 4 and 5 and Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 855-933-2433.